GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1226
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
POLLUTION IN RIVERS
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has imposed a ban on the discharge of contaminated water in the rivers;

(b) whether the distilleries have started contaminating ground water ignoring all rules and regulations which led to losing fertility of the soil;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take any action against such distilleries with a view to check environmental pollution and soil erosion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) As per Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, discharge of effluent exceeding the prescribed standards in river is not allowed. The Supreme Court has also passed orders from time to time to this effect.

(b) to (d) It is true that many distilleries have started discharge of treated effluent on land. To prevent contamination of ground water and loss of fertility of soil, the Central Pollution Control Board has prepared a protocol for utilisation of treated distillery effluents for irrigation in a scientific manner. If the treated effluents are used for irrigation in accordance with this protocol, there will be no problem of ground water pollution and loss of fertility of soil. In addition, the State Pollution Control Boards have been directed to monitor and take action wherever industries are discharging effluents beyond the prescribed standards. Distillery units are also being monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board.As on September 30, 2000 out of a total number of 177 distilleries, 134 units are reported to be having adequate facilities to comply with discharge standards, 32 units have been closed down and legal action has been taken against the remaining 11 defaulting units.